

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HA-05 DODE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
SP-02 L-03 /068 W
-----001555 080627Z /15

R 071504Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2419
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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BRUSSELS FOR USEC/LABATT

PARIS FOR LABATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINR, TS
SUBJ: THIRTY-SIX TRADE UNIONISTS GIVEN PROVISIONAL LIBERTY

1. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY LA PRESSE ANNOUNCED
SEPTEMBER 7 THAT 36 TRADE UNIONISTS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION
WITH JANUARY 26 WERE GIVEN PROVISIONAL LIBERTY OVER
WEEKEND. (BOND DOES NOT EXIST IN TUNISIA AND ACCUSED
PERSONS ARE EITHER HELD IN PRISON OR RELEASED ON THEIR
OWN RECOGNITION, AS DETERMINED BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE.)

2. TWENTY-FIVE OF THIS NUMBER COME FROM GROUP WHICH WAS
ARRESTED IN TUNIS AFTER RIOTS. AS FAR AS EMBASSY IS
AWARE, FORMAL CHARGES STILL HAVE NOT BEEN FILED AGAINST
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ANY OF THIS GROUP, INCLUDING ACHOUR AND OTHER EXECUTIVE
BUREAU MEMBERS.

3. REMAINING ELEVEN PERSONS RELEASED COME FROM AMONG
101 DEFENDANTS IN SOUSSE TRIAL. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT
APPROXIMATELY 50 DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH LESSER CRIMES IN SOUSSE
HAD BEEN GRANTED PROVISIONAL LIBERTY PRIOR TO TRIAL AND THAT

THEY REMAIN AT LIBERTY.

4. NONE OF PRINCIPAL DEFENDANTS IN EITHER SOUSSE OR TUNIS CASES WERE INCLUDED AMONG 36 HOWEVER. THREE EX-SECRETARIES GENERAL OF RAILWAY, BUILDING AND PORT WORKER FEDERATIONS WERE INCLUDED IN LIST, ALTHOUGH MOST OF THEM APPEAR TO BE MINOR UNION OFFICIALS OR CADRE.

5. GIVEN MORE SERIOUS NATURE OF STATE SECURITY COURT, EMBASSY WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF CHARGES AGAINST SOME OF MINOR FIGURES IN SOUSSE AND TUNIS CASES--INCLUDING MANY OF THOSE NOW ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY--WERE EVENTUALLY DROPPED. NOTHING IS CERTAIN IN THIS UNUSUAL "PROCESS" HOWEVER, AND WE HESITATE TO MAKE ANY PREDICTIONS.
KING

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: ELAB, PINR, TS
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